



**S. 1396 -- A bill to authorize a major medical facility project to modernize inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia.**

#### **FLOOR SITUATION**

S. 1396 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) on May 15, 2007. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on December 13, 2007.

S. 1396 is expected to be considered on the floor on December 19, 2007.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Under current law, a major medical facility project has a total expenditure of over \$7 million. All major medical facility projects must be authorized by Congress prior to their funding. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is also authorized to accept gifts or donations to help fund a project.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is required to notify Congress if a project exceeds the estimated cost by over 10 percent or if the Secretary uses the funds for any purpose other than the original purpose of the funds outlined to Congress.

#### **SUMMARY**

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project for modernization of inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

The bill authorizes up to \$20.534 million for this project.

#### **COST**

The Congressional Budget Office has not yet scored this legislation.